

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /097 W
-----120431 290324Z /63

R 281812Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2685
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: DGB POSTALWORKERS UNION CONVENTION

REF: BONN A-581, NOV. 25, 1974

SUMMARY: THE DGB POSTALWORKERS UNION (DEUTSCHE POST-
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GEWERKSCHAFT - DPG) HELD ITS 12TH NATIONAL CONVEN-
TION IN MAINZ, OCTOBER 9-15, 1977, WITH 417 DELEGATES
REPRESENTING ABOUT 416,000 ORGANIZED POSTAL AND COMMU-
NICATION WORKERS. DEBATES CENTERED AROUND THE RATIO-
NALIZATION MEASURES IN THE POSTAL SERVICES, UNION
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING POLICY, THE EMPLOYMENT OF "RADI-
CALS" IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES, AND THE ADMISSION OF

MEMBERS OF THE MOSCOW-ORIENTED GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY
- DKP - AS DPG MEMBERS. THE MEMBERS OF THE DPG
EXECUTIVE BOARD WERE REELECTED, BUT BY A NARROWER
MARGIN THAN IN 1974. END SUMMARY.

1. THE TOPIC OF RATIONALIZATION IN THE POSTAL SERVICES DOMINATED THE DEBATE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE CONVENTION. FRG POSTAL AND TRANSPORT MINISTER KURT GSCHIEDLE, A FORMER DPG VICE PRESIDENT (UNTIL 1969), PROVOKED MAJOR CRITICISM AND OPPOSITION WHEN HE DECLARED: "THE MAINTENANCE OF SUPERFLUOUS AND UNPRODUCTIVE JOBS IN THE GERMAN FEDERAL POSTS (BUNDESPOST) IS NO REASONABLE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD A REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT. UNPRODUCTIVE JOBS ALSO CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED BY REFERRING TO THE OVERALL ECONOMIC COMMITMENT OF THE POSTS." DPG PRESIDENT ERNST BREIT RESPONDED THAT THE RATIONALIZATION MEASURES HAD LED TO THE ELIMINATION OF 28,000 JOBS IN THE POSTAL SERVICES DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS AND ARGUED THAT SUCH MEASURES ARE RUNNING COUNTER TO THE FRG'S FULL EMPLOYMENT GOAL.

2. A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED CONDEMNING THE RATIONALIZATION MEASURES OF THE BUNDESPOST "WHICH DESTROY THOUSANDS OF JOBS EVERY YEAR". THE RESOLUTION CALLS ON THE DPG EXECUTIVE BOARD IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE POSTAL MINISTRY TO STRIVE TOWARD AN "ADJUSTMENT OF
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RATIONALIZATION MEASURES TO THE ACTUAL PERSONNEL SITUATION" AND A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SUCH MEASURES, IF NECESSARY. A MORE FAR-REACHING PROPOSAL REQUESTING AN OVERALL STOP OF RATIONALIZATION MEASURES WAS, HOWEVER, DEFEATED.

3. THE DELEGATES ALSO CRITICALLY REVIEWED THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING POLICY PURSUED BY THE UNION LEADERSHIP IN RECENT YEARS. THEY VOICED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE INSUFFICIENT PARTICIPATION OF THE RANK AND FILE AND LOWER UNION ECHELONS IN THE PREPARATIONS OF THE ANNUAL BARGAINING ROUNDS AND THE COORDINATION OF WAGE DEMANDS BETWEEN THE DPG AND THE TWO OTHER DGB UNIONS ORGANIZING PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES, I.E., THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION (OETV) AND THE GERMAN RAILROAD WORKERS UNION (GDED). THIS, IN THE VIEW OF SOME DELEGATES, HAD LED TO "THE DPG BECOMING AN ANNEX OF THE OETV". NEVERTHELESS, RESOLUTION PROPOSALS CALLING FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF POLICY COORDINATION BETWEEN THE THREE DGB UNIONS INVOLVED IN BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND FOR TERMINATION OF THE CONCILIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE

DPG AND THE BUNDESPOST WERE TURNED DOWN.

4. A RESOLUTION ON UNION COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
POLICY APPROVED BY MAJORITY VOTE PROVIDES THAT THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD IS TO SUPPLY "ORIENTATION DATA" FOR
DISCUSSION AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP WHICH WOULD THEN PRE-

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SENT ITS PROPOSALS ON WAGE INCREASE DEMANDS TO THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE UNION LEADERSHIP, HOWEVER, WOULD
NOT BE BOUND TO ADHERE TO THE MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS
WHEN THE LEADERSHIP COORDINATES THESE DEMANDS WITH THE

OETV AND GDED IN TALKS AIMED AT DEVELOPING A JOINT STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

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5. A MOTION SPONSORED BY THE TRIER AND KOBLENZ DPG LOCALS WHICH WOULD HAVE DECLARED MEMBERSHIP IN THE MOSCOW-ORIENTED GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP) AS INCOMPATIBLE WITH MEMBERSHIP IN THE DPG LED TO A CONTROVERSIAL DISCUSSION AMONG THE CONVENTION DELEGATES. SINCE THE FLOOR WAS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE, DPG PRESIDENT ERNST BREIT MADE A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL TO REFER THIS MOTION "AS MATERIAL" TO THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL, THE HIGHEST DPG POLICY-MAKING BODY AFTER THE CONVENTION. BREIT'S SUGGESTION WAS APPROVED BY MAJORITY VOTE. (IT MAY BE NOTED THAT THE 1974 DPG CONVENTION HAD EXCLUDED DKP COMMUNISTS UNDER THE "INCOMPATIBILITY PROVISIONS" ADOPTED BY THE 1974 CONVENTION - SEE REF.)

6. ANOTHER CONTROVERSY DEVELOPED OVER THE QUESTION OF ADMITTING "RADICALS" TO JOBS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE. DPG YOUTH DELEGATES ADVOCATED A RESOLUTION PROPOSAL CALLING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS AIMED AT DENYING IDENTIFIED RADICALS ADMISSION TO GOVERNMENT JOBS. THE CONVENTION, HOWEVER, DECIDED BY MAJORITY VOTE IN FAVOR OF A RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY THE DPG EXECUTIVE BOARD WHICH ENDORSES A PREVIOUS DECISION BY THE DGB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE "EXCLUSION OF ENEMIES OF THE CONSTITUTION FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE". THIS PREVIOUS DECISION RECOMMENDS THE CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

7. A RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY CALLS ON THE DPG EXECUTIVE BOARD, TOGETHER WITH THE DGB TO SEEK TO INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT AND BUNDESRAT SO THAT "THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WILL

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BE PROHIBITED SO LONG AS THE TECHNICAL PROBLEM OF THE DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTE AND THE ATOMIC POLLUTION OF ENVIRONMENT HAS NOT BEEN SOLVED IN A MANNER WHICH AVOIDS ANY DANGER TO THE LIFE OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS." THE DECISION WAS MADE IN SPITE OF APPEALS BY DGB PRESIDENT VETTER URGING THE DELEGATES

TO WAIT FOR THE FINDINGS OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION WHICH ARE EXPECTED IN NOVEMBER, BEFORE REQUESTING A HALT IN CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.

8. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS SHOWED THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

ERNST BREIT (SPD), REELECTED PRESIDENT WITH 354 VOTES AGAINST 40 VOTES AND 18 ABSTENTIONS (85.9 PERCENT AS COMPARED WITH 90.2 PERCENT IN 1974);

GUSTAV FEHRENBACH (CDU), REELECTED VICE PRESIDENT WITH 315 VOTES, AGAINST 58 VOTES AND 18 ABSTENTIONS (76.6 PERCENT AS COMPARED WITH 82.2 PERCENT IN 1974);

HEINZ ENDERS (SPD), REELECTED VICE PRESIDENT WITH 319 VOTES, AGAINST 66 VOTES AND 26 ABSTENTIONS (77.6 PERCENT AS COMPARED WITH 85.3 PERCENT IN 1974);

ERICH HUBER (SPD), REELECTED VICE PRESIDENT WITH 277 VOTES, AGAINST 92 VOTES AND 42 ABSTENTIONS (67.4 PERCENT AS COMPARED WITH 88 PERCENT IN 1974).
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Message Attributes

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